

Kristen Chapman  
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LD 2226

Dear Senator Rafferty and Committee Members of Education and Cultural Affairs,

During the time that both my husband and I have served on the RSU 10 School Board, our humble town of Sumner has consistently experienced the higher percentage increases of the seven towns in this district. Year after year, Sumner residents attend the Annual Budget Meeting, in hopes to amend warrant amounts. Repeated, futile attempts to reign costs in at this annual meeting have since caused people to mobilize to withdraw from the sprawling RSU 10 district, in hopes for greater local control in the escalating annual increases. Engaged citizens in this withdrawal effort, however, are beginning to understand that the EPS funding formula is outside of their control. This has resulted in anger, despair and then apathy over the rising costs of education in this community... when families and staff very much need community support!

Sumner has no store front businesses. My dear friend, a near-90 year old widow neighbor down our dirt road, cannot afford these repeated, astronomical increases. This session, I implore the legislature to please make the much needed changes to the State funding formula.

Thank you for your service to the People,  
Kristen Chapman